

REMARKS

Favorable action on this application is respectfully requested for the reasons Applicant respectfully submits by this paper.

Claims 1-18 are the only claims currently active in this application. The foregoing separate sheets marked as "Listing of Claims" show all the claims in the application, each with an indication at its first line showing the claim's current status.

Applicant submits amendments to the specification for minor matters of typographical form. Applicant respectfully states these amendments do not add new matter.

The Office Action sets forth a rejection of original claims 1-18 as being anticipated by U.S. Publication No. 2003/0088698 ("*Singh*"). Office Action at pp. 2 - 7.

Applicant respectfully traverses all these rejections. Original base claims 1 and 9 recite a hub-and-spoke virtual private network (VPN) having a first hub node connected to a redundant second hub node, a first point-to-point link connecting the first hub node to the spoke node, with the second hub node establishing a second point-to-point link with the spoke node upon detecting a failure of the first link.

Singh, in contrast, discloses nothing of a hub-and-spoke network, nothing of second hub connected to a first hub, and nothing of a second hub establishing a redundant point-to-point link to the spoke node upon detecting a failure of the first link.

Notwithstanding Applicant's traversal of all of these rejections, and without disclaimer of subject matter or prejudice to Applicant's right to pursue the original claim language by subsequent application, Applicant amends claim 1 and 9 to more positively recite the hub and spoke network, the second hub being connected to the first hub and, upon detecting a failure of the first point-to-point link, the second hub

establishing a second (redundant) point-to-point link to the spoke node. Applicant respectfully submits FIG. 2, and the Specification at paragraph [0039] as showing example support for all subject matter recited by the amended claims 1 and 9.

Singh lacks at least the above-identified subject matter of claims 1 and 9.

With respect to the claim 1 and 9 term “spoke,” neither that term nor any term or phrase asserted by the Office Action as equivalent to that “spoke” appears anywhere in the *Singh* disclosure.

With respect to the term “hub,” Applicant respectfully notes the Office Action asserts that *Singh*'s gateway(s) 140 are a “hub.” Office Action at p. 3.

Applicant respectfully submits, in response, that the Office Action's position is not consistent with *Singh*'s disclosure. *Singh* uses the term “hub” only once, at paragraph 58 of its disclosure, in reference to its Private Network 150. *Singh*'s gateway(s) 140 are outside of the Private Network 150. See, for example, *Singh* at Fig. 1.

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider base claims 1 and 9 and, for at least the reasons Applicant submits above, withdraw the rejections.

Claims 2-8 and 10-18 depend from claims 1 and 9, respectively, and are therefore patentable over *Singh* for at least the reasons Applicant submits above.

In addition to patentability based on their respective base claims, the dependent claims include, in various arrangements, further patentably distinct subject matter.

For example, claims 2, 3, 13 and 14 include, in their recited arrangements, aspects of the second hub node operating as a spoke node for the first hub node in the absence of a detected failure of the first link, and the first hub node operating as a spoke node for the second hub node in response to detecting a failure of the first link.

Singh does not disclose, teach or suggest anything of this subject matter.

Claims 4-8, 10-12 and 15-18 recite various aspects of, for example, the base claim 1 and 9 subject matter of detecting the failure of the first link and providing the second link, which is not taught or suggested anywhere in the *Singh* disclosure.

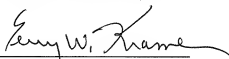
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that the application be reconsidered, that claims 1-18 be allowed, and that the application be passed to issue.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

In the event that the fees submitted are insufficient in connection with the filing of this paper, please charge our Deposit Account Number 50-0578 and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,
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